Insurance scheme for shepherds

†2923. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any insurace scheme for the backward shepherds in the country;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether a draft has been prepared for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) A number of low premium policies meant for poorer sections of the society, such as, Sheep/Goat Insurance, Janata Personal Accident Policy/ Gramin Personal Accident Policy, Jan Arogya and the newly introduced Universal Health Insurance Policy are already available with the four public sector general insurance companies. Any person including shepherds can purchase these policies from insurance companies by paying the requisite premium.

Opening of finance companies

2924. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules for opening/operating a finance company; and

(b) the action taken by Government against the finance companies operating against the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that no Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) can commence the business of Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI) without obtaining a Certificate of Registration under Reserve Bank of India Act,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1934. Besides, the minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs. 25 lakh is required to be achieved for commencing the business of NBFC by the companies which were existing as on January 9, 1997, the applicant companies have to fulfil the eligibility criteria specified in the RBI Act for grant of Certificate of Registration by RBI. NBFCs which did not have the minimum NOF were given six years time to attain NOF of Rs. 25 lakh by January 9, 2003. The minimum Net Owned Fund for a new company is Rs. 2 crore from April 21, 1999.

(b) RBI have further reported that in terms of RBI Act, 1934, if any person conducts business of a Non-Banking Financial Company without obtaining a Certificate of Registration, he is punishable with an imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to five years and with fine which shall be not less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.The Reserve Bank has already initiated adverse action against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contraventions of the provisions of RBI Act. Reserve Bank has issued orders prohibiting NBFCs whose applications for Certificate of Registration have been rejected from accepting further deposits and from alienation of assets except for repayment of the deposits.

Customs duty realisation from Gaya Airport

2925. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY.: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been abysmally low customs duty realisation from Gaya International Airport for the last seven months;

(b) whether customs duty realisation of a paltry sum of Rs. 3.5 lakhs was affected during the entire seven months;

(c) whether a Central customs team from Delhi took control of customs at Gaya Airport recently and realised a staggering Rs. 65.00 lakhs as customs duty in a single day; and

(d) what punitive action has been taken against those manning the Gaya Airport customs for the last seven months for causing huge losses to the public exchequer?